

**BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS
ANNUAL REPORT 2003-2004**

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

During the 2003-2004 academic year, the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) convened eleven times which included a two-day meeting, a joint meeting with the CSU Admissions Advisory Council, and a joint meeting with the UC Admissions Directors and Vice Chancellors for Student Affairs. Additional business was conducted in subcommittee meetings, by teleconference, and by email. Highlights of the committee's activities and accomplishments are noted in this report.

Eligibility

Reexamining the eligibility index was BOARS' primary focus this year. As established by the California Master Plan for Higher Education, 12.5 percent of the state's public high school graduates are to be deemed eligible for UC. Early in the academic year, preliminary estimates suggested that UC's eligibility rate was above 12.5 percent. In anticipation of the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) study's release, BOARS began studying options for adjusting the criteria to make no more than 12.5 percent of California public high school graduates eligible for UC.

The committee began by developing a set of principles to guide their formulation of eligibility. The principles focused on the need to continue emphasizing high academic achievement and likely success at UC while also maintaining access for high-achieving students from a breadth of different backgrounds. The principles were approved by the Academic Assembly in May 2004.

In May 2004, the results of the CPEC study were released indicating that 14.4 percent of California public high school graduate were meeting UC eligibility. BOARS reviewed the current eligibility components, which include the a-g course pattern, grade point average (GPA), standardized test scores, and Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC). Changes in each of the factors and various combinations were simulated and BOARS studied the effects of each. Overall, the simulations showed that changes to the minimum GPA were most effective in increasing the academic quality of eligibility pool and the expected college performance. Adjusting the minimum GPA also had the least negative impact on students from disadvantaged populations.

The Academic Council and the Academic Assembly endorsed BOARS' recommended adjustments to the freshman eligibility requirements in June 2004.

Study Group

In November 2003, President Dynes charged a study group of regents, faculty, and administrators to examine undergraduate eligibility and admissions policies and implementation issues facing the University. Chair Sawrey represented BOARS on the study group. After five meetings, the study group adopted 15 findings and recommendations that address eligibility, admissions, oversight, efficiency, and clarity. Many of the recommendations proposed further examination to be conducted by BOARS.

These included reexamining current guidelines for the admission of ineligible students, examining the policy of admitting students from the full range of the eligibility pool, considering how greater commonality in the implementation of comprehensive review can be attained, reviewing the feasibility of requesting applicants to submit at least one letter of recommendation, examining the extent to which campuses consider the quality of writing in the personal statement, and including data on appeals in the BOARS' comprehensive review annual report. BOARS has begun addressing some of these issues and will continue examining them next year.

Comprehensive Review

BOARS continued to refine the admissions selection process also known as comprehensive review. The committee considered how participation and achievement in outreach and other academic preparation programs should be evaluated in the comprehensive review process. BOARS agreed that simple participation in an outreach program should not be accorded any weight and that sustained involvement is required. Principles and a rationale were developed to guide campus admissions staff on this topic. Changes in the application will reflect this decision by asking students to describe their involvement in outreach or academic preparation programs.

High School Issues

Granting program status. BOARS reviewed and approved a policy for granting program status to organizations that have standardized curriculums that meet a-g requirements. Prior to approving the policy, UC had agreements with several organizations, such as Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB), to accept their courses as meeting the a-g requirements. To identify other programs that might qualify for program status, BOARS approved a list of criteria for evaluating programs. Upon approval of the policy and criteria, the BOARS high school subcommittee approved and denied program status to several organizations.

Earth Science as d-requirement. BOARS considered a request from a UC faculty member to accept earth science courses as fulfilling the d-laboratory science requirement. The high school subcommittee concluded that the current doctrine, under which biology, chemistry, and physics are regarded to be the most fundamental science subjects, is sound and should remain in place. The full committee has not yet taken action on this topic.

WASC-accreditation policy. BOARS' policy requiring schools to be WASC-accredited in order to establish an a-g course list came under fire by Christian schools that felt the policy was discriminatory. No changes were made in the policy, but work is underway at WASC to streamline procedures for accreditation.

Admissions Tests

In anticipation of the release of new SAT and ACT exams, BOARS began preparing guidelines for evaluating the new tests. BOARS will also continuously monitor and evaluate the role of test scores in the eligibility criteria.

Joint meeting with CSU Admissions Advisory Council

For the first time, BOARS meet with the CSU Admissions Advisory Council. The meeting was held in Long Beach at the CSU Chancellor's Office and the two groups

discussed a number of common issues. Information was exchanged about enrollment reductions plans, collaborative opportunities in admission and enrollment, use of SAT, ACT, CST, and other standardized tests, and alignment of a-g subject areas. Members from both groups thought the meeting was productive and suggested that future meetings be scheduled periodically.

Joint meeting with Admissions Directors and Vice Chancellors for Student Affairs

BOARS met jointly with the Admissions Directors and Vice Chancellors for Student Affairs. Each campus updated BOARS on the 2004 admissions process, new and continuing challenges in admissions, and plans for the 2005 admissions season.

Review and Updates of Other Issues

During the course of the year, the committee also discussed and/or commented on other issues such as the budget and its effect on enrollment and a web policy for Senate documents.

BOARS Representation

The Chair, Vice Chair, or members represented BOARS in various other committees including the Academic Assembly, Academic Council, UC Merced Task Force, UCEP, UCOPE, ICAS, the Admissions Processing Task Force, and Eligibility and Admissions Study Group. Members also participated in the counselor conferences.

Acknowledgments

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